controversial figure, keen to revive the attempt to turn Bury into his episcopal see; further, there had never been any love lost between Herbert and Herman (in Herman's miracles Herbert is even compared with Satan [p. 115]) and it may well be, Licence suggests, Herman who is the author of the vitriolic poem, *On the Heresy Simony,* also included in this volume—a poem which savagely attacks both Herbert and his father, Robert Losinga. It thus seems likely that Herbert Losinga might well have attempted to efface Herman's work as soon as the opportunity presented itself, and that he employed Goscelin to do just that—a task which Goscelin found thankless: 'May he who is not ashamed to expose defenceless me to barbed tongues hold out a shield of protection!' he implores (p. 239). Licence himself needs no such shield: this is an exciting and an exemplary addition to *Oxford Medieval Texts*.

HENRIETTA LEYSER
St Peter's College, Oxford

doi:10.1093/ehr/cev265

Lordship in Four Realms: The Lacy Family, 1166–1241, by Colin Veach (Manchester: Manchester U.P., 2014; pp. 333. £70).

This book, a revised version of the author's doctoral dissertation, focuses on two generations of an aristocratic family of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in order to reveal the 'transnational' nature of that family's interests and activities. Colin Veach amply confirms the potential of his approach. He makes a wealth of carefully considered judgements on the histories of the individual realms of Normandy, England, Wales and particularly of Ireland; what is more, he complements this by showing, with unprecedented clarity, that the fortunes of the Lacy family in those four realms were intertwined. The book draws on sources which are rarely considered together, from Irish annals, the *Song of Dermot and the Earl* (or *Deeds of the Normans in Ireland*) and the writings of Gerald de Barri (or 'of Wales'), to chroniclers of England and Normandy, records of military obligations, the Anonymous of Béthune, and archival evidence from England, Ireland and France. Where specific evidence for the Lacys is sparse or non-existent, Veach says so, and often draws effectively on comparisons with other aristocratic families.

After a historiographical introduction, the book offers two narrative chapters on Hugh de Lacy (k. 1186), and five on Hugh's son Walter (d. 1241), before dedicating an analytical chapter to lordship. The narrative chapters reassess the changing priorities of the Lacys, as well as the very different strategies pursued by Henry II and his successors in dealing with comparable transnational aristocrats. To note some of the main conclusions, in Chapter One, Veach argues that in 1172 Henry II prospectively granted Meath to Hugh de Lacy only after deciding not to conquer that Irish kingdom himself; and that Henry II intended Hugh to support Richard de Clare's (Strongbow's) control of Leinster, rather than keep that earl in check. Veach also places Henry II's grant of Meath to Hugh in perspective by showing that shortly afterwards Hugh purchased an honor in Normandy. In Chapter Two, Veach contends that Ireland became Hugh de Lacy's primary concern as a result partly of Strongbow's death in 1176, and partly because of Henry II's decision in the same year to exert greater control over castles in England. He also shows

the 'conquest of Meath' to have been achieved by diplomacy as well as military might, placing Hugh in a position successfully to resist, along with his 'fellow settlers', Henry II's attempt to install Prince John as crowned king of Ireland in 1185. Chapter Three reassesses Walter de Lacy's changing allegiances in Richard the Lionheart's reign, when he held lands in England of the king but in Ireland of Prince John. Chapter Four argues that John, as king, strove to rule his transnational magnates by dividing them (a strategy from which Walter de Lacy benefited: his loss of Norman lands in 1204 was more than compensated for by his installation as earl of Ulster the following year). Chapter Five traces how Walter's resistance to royal lordship in Ireland led to his exile in France, from which he was able to return by supporting John during the Magna Carta revolt. Chapters Six and Seven focus on Walter de Lacy's career during Henry III's reign, showing that during the boy-king's minority he benefited from weak royal government in England while suffering losses because of it in Ireland; and seeing the later rebellions as 'supranational' conflicts between 'supranational' aristocratic families, the result of the long-standing rivalries which had been purposely fomented by John.

The final chapter stresses that the overriding concern of medieval lords was to achieve dominance at a local level, and reveals how flexibly and opportunistically the Lacys went about doing so. It argues that, in Normandy, they chiefly exploited financial methods; it discusses their use of common-law instruments such as disseisin in England; and it contends that, in Ireland, the Irish kings of Meath were seen (at least by the Irish) as the Lacys' legal *antecessores* (p. 246). Further, the final chapter explores the logistical challenges faced by aristocrats needing to wage war and administer estates in widely dispersed territories; and the roles of affinity, household, relations with the king, and family co-operation in exercising transnational lordship in the decades around 1200.

There are a few minor criticisms. Wales and its March deserved their own section or sections in the final analytical chapter, given that colonisation by foreign aristocrats in Wales so closely preceded, and indeed coincided with, that in Ireland, and given that the nature of aristocratic liberties, franchises or immunities in medieval Britain and Ireland continues to be debated. In the section on lordship and war (pp. 251–5), the author might have made more of the archaeological evidence of castles. Also, more maps would have been helpful (for one thing, there is no map showing all Lacy lands in England), and the three maps provided do not distinguish between Lacy estates and other places mentioned in the text.

These points notwithstanding, Veach has provided an important account of the advantages and disadvantages of simultaneously holding aristocratic estates in the different parts of 'the Plantagenet empire'. He has also shed new light on the contrasts and similarities between the reigns of Henry II, Richard I, John and Henry III. His book deserves to be widely read and it is to be hoped that it will lead to further studies of transnational aristocratic families.

MAX LIEBERMAN
Historical Institute, University of Berne

doi:10.1093/ehr/cev268